

THE LANCASTER NEWS

LEDGER 1852

REVIEW 1878

ENTERPRISE 1891

VOL. I. NO. 64. SEMI-WEEKLY.

LANCASTER, S. C., MAY 16, 1906.

PRICE—FIVE CENTS PER COPY.

Our Public Schools

More about Books.

PAPER NO. 6.

Ed. News:—Before continuing the discussion of books it is proper that I thank you for setting us right on the law as to selection of trustees. "Parent" was correct and I was (as often is the case) wrong.

Now to resume. Writing is neglected badly in our schools. Some will say that pupils are required to write exercises, answers to questions and in other ways practised. This is an error. It is not practice, but the rapid and careless performance of a task. Lawyers are often taken to task concerning their illegible writing. Why? Because their clients wait until public days or when haste is required and cause the scrivener's pen to rush over paper regardless of any curve of beauty. Just so the child is hurried and does not get practice, but mere performance. His handwriting has no chance to shape and mature itself. Therefore all should be required at stated times to leisurely practice a few lines.

Oh my! There comes up that horrid Grammar! Yes, indeed it is horrid. The poor child has been compelled for an hour or two to befuddle his brain by a so-called diagrammatic analysis of some high-flown utterance of a dead orator or poet. He searches with might and main for a simple subject and predicate in order that his worried brain may grasp at least one idea, but guesses that it is somewhere hidden in the recesses of a compound-complex subject with its shading of ramifications, qualifications, modifications, etc. and that something ambiguously cloudy has been predicated about, on, or concerning it at some vague time and unknown place. Poor fellow! I do sincerely pity him; and feel a contempt for the teacher who will compel a child to undertake a study only fit for a collegian. Some children have pretended to study Grammar two or three years and succeeded in learning nothing about the relation of words to each other in a simple sentence. This is a cheat from start to finish. It sounds big to say to outsiders "I study Grammar," or "I teach Grammar"; but it is all a hollow mockery.

Under our system (if it is one) a pupil must accomplish what he can in three or four months; then why not use a book from which he can derive most benefit in that time? With Smith's Grammar a competent teacher can instill into the mind of an average pupil a tolerably fair idea of how our language ought to be spoken or written; any good grammar on the same plan will answer the purpose. I do not consider Smith by any means

the chief of grammarians; but I do like his plan for beginners: afterwards they may take up a higher grade if they have time. It must always be done in mind that most must be borne in the shortest time; for the majority of our pupils are laboring people. I know a teacher who applied to an examining board for a certificate. He finished his papers first of all applicants, and knew he had secured the prize.

When his work was graded he was surprised to find his standing in grammar so low, knowing he had done better. The truth was that the board did not know. Besides grammarians—or writers on that line—differ sometimes, as well as doctors, in construing a very long and complex sentence; but they can not differ as to the relations of words to each other,—in simple parsing; and that is what the child needs to learn. If he gets a fair knowledge of Smith, he will write and speak so as to be understood: this is the object in studying any grammar.

History, as I have said, may profitably succeed the fourth Reader as a reading book: afterwards it should be reviewed as a text book, and questions answered with evidence of study. Here the effective teacher may put in good work: if he know history, he can, on many occasions, when time will permit make a lesson interesting by imparting information outside the book, thus causing pupils to comprehend more fully the subject of their studies.

Physiology and Hygiene! Great Scots! Do not we have ills enough without striving to find out how to have more? A talented man used to say that he started to study medicine with a view of practising, but he had to give it up because he imagined that he had every disease as he read about it. If too much knowledge on this subject might visibly increase our list of patients, let us avoid it. At any rate it is not suited to our common country schools. I heard a teacher of a colored school in the country ask for half a dozen more books on this subject, saying he did not have more than half a dozen in use. I'd almost bet a barrel of candy against a gill of jewsharps that there were not three of his scholars able to write a correct business or social letter. Let this thing alone at least until the pupil is old enough and learned enough to discuss the subject with some degree of reason. A good substitute for it would be some book on Natural Philosophy. I do not mean an advanced treatise, but a simple work explaining the "why" and "wherefore" of common things: a series of questions and answers on natural phenomena, whether a lever or screw is the stronger and why, what makes rain and things that come up in the life and work of a practical farmer or mechanic.

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The Christian Crusaders

Interest Increasing in their Tabernacle Meetings--Evidences of a Spiritual Awakening in Lancaster--Report of the Recent Services.

Reported for The News.

Notwithstanding the fact that the great enemy of souls, who ever "goeth about like a lion, seeking whom he may devour," has been busily engaged, during the week, to allure the carnally minded, and to draw the attention of man from Heaven and heavenly things, unto himself, and the further fact that the weather has been unfavorable, the Tabernacle meetings of the Crusaders have been well attended, and the interest is increasing in attendance and spiritual development. These earnest servants of God have endeavored, in song, in personal testimony, and from the preaching of God's Word, in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, to lift up Jesus to the people, and to show forth to the unconverted, the danger of living in sin, its awful consequences, and the importance of preparing for the great, never-ending Eternity, which all must spend either in Heaven or Hell.

The Holy Ghost has been present in these services to do His office work "to convince of sin, of righteousness and of the judgment." Many, as they sat under the influence of the Spirit, in the solemnity of the hour, have been shown their relation to God and have heard the still, small voice within, which has told them what they should do that they might gain God's favor. Some of these have obeyed this voice, been won to Christ, and have testified publicly to His saving power. Others have manifested an interest in their soul's welfare by standing for prayer, whom the people of God pray may soon also be able to rejoice in Christ as their Redeemer and personal Savior.

The meeting of Saturday night was largely attended. The scripture lesson was read by General Light, from St. John, 1: 1-9. He made a few remarks on the 9th verse of the chapter and quoted,—"That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." The Holy Spirit carried the message home to the hearts of many. Some unsaved ones were sufficiently concerned to raise their hands for prayer, during the aftermeeting, and one precious soul professed to be saved, at the altar.

A very large, attentive audience filled the Tabernacle on Sunday afternoon. Gen. Light preached from the 3rd chapter of St. John, on "The New Birth." Among other things he said: The New Birth means: more than a

reformation, an amendment, a moral change or outward alteration of life. It means a thorough change of heart, will and character; a resurrection from the dead; an implantation in the heart of a divine principle from Heaven. It means the bringing into existence of a new creature with a new nature, new tastes, new appetites, new desires, new longings, new dispositions, new affections, new aspirations, new ideas, new opinions, new views, new hopes, and new fears. All this and nothing short of this, is meant by the 'New Birth.' This great change of heart is rendered absolutely necessary to salvation by the awfully corrupt condition in which all, without exception, are born into the world." Many were pricked to their hearts and were brought to realize that, although they had made a profession of religion for a number of years, they had not experienced this change of heart which Christ so plainly and positively declares is needful to salvation. Seven asked an interest in the prayers of the Christian people, by the uplifted hand.

In the meeting Sunday night, which was well attended, Lieut. Marden preached from Matt. 4: 7-22 on "The Call of God." She referred to the call of Abraham, of Moses, and of the child Samuel, and brought before the minds of the congregation that God is calling the unsaved to-day. She related two very touching incidents, showing the power of sin and the awful end awaiting those who heed not the call of God. The unsaved were exhorted to behold Jesus, the Crucified One, to forsake their sins and live for God. Many were brought under deep conviction.

"Such a work as that of the Crusaders is much needed here," has been said by many, and, who can doubt it? Shall we not have a pentecostal outpouring during the weeks to come? Let the Christians of all the churches be of "one accord" and agonize with unwavering faith for their unsaved loved ones, friends and neighbors, and God will honor their faith and pour out upon them such a blessing as they will not be able to contain,—even the salvation of Lancaster, the desire of their hearts. Let us help to carry on this good work with our prayers, our presence and our substance.

How to get Rid of Ground Moles.

Mr. Editor: I note in The News that "J. W. F." of Hawkinsville, Ga., wants to know how to get rid of ground moles in his ground peas. If he will put some palmetto seed with his peas when dropping them he will find that the moles will give him no further trouble. Or if one or two of the seed are put in the holes where the moles run they will not go that way any more.

A Camden Subscriber.

Card from Mr John A. Coock

Lancaster County's Most Eligible Auditor will Not be a Candidate for Reelection.

Mr. Editor: Please allow me a small space in The News to thank my many friends and fellow citizens of Lancaster County for the many kind solicitations to become again a candidate for reelection to the office of county auditor I will have served our county for ten years when my time expires, and therefore I will not be a candidate for reelection this year. Hoping you all will select one to serve you as well or better than I have done, and again thanking my many friends and fellow citizens, one and all, for the kind consideration shown me, I am,

most respectfully,

Jno. A. Coock.

The Monument Fund

List of Ladies who have Recently Contributed One Dollar, Each.

The Lancaster Chapter U. S. C. continues to receive contributions of \$1. each from the ladies for the monument fund. In addition to the names already published, the following have also contributed:

Miss Agnes Caskey, Mrs. R. Hammond, Mrs. S. J. Hinson, Mrs. Chalmers Williams, Mrs. Jennie Clark Hughes, A friend, Heath Springs, S. C.
Mrs. W. C. Thomson, Mrs. J. Hazel Witherspoon, Mrs. M. McMurray, Mrs. T. F. Clyburn, Mrs. Lizzie Crawford, Mrs. John Crawford, Mrs. Sallie Lindsey, Mrs. J. S. Wilson, Lancaster, S. C., Mrs. Olimpia Cartledge, Ridgely, S. C., Miss Virginia Robertson, Inman, A friend, Chester.
Mrs. M. E. Cauthen
Treas. L. C. U. S. C.

Commencement at the Graded School this Week.

The closing exercises of the Lancaster Graded School will be held in the school auditorium on Thursday and Friday night of this week. The exercises on Thursday night will consist of a play, "Our Aunt from California," by pupils of the 7th and 8th grades, and a debate, declamations, essays and readings by members of the Harrison Literary Club.

On Friday night, the annual address will be delivered by the Hon. Saml. E. M. McFadden of Chester, which will be followed by a "May Pole Drill" by pupils of the lower grades, and a contest, "His Fortune," by pupils of 7th, 8th and 9th grades. All the exercises will be interesting and the public is cordially invited to witness them. The Lancaster Orchestra will assist in the music.